

Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Application No. 10/807,327
Attorney Docket No. 042271

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to Figures.10-12.



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REMARKS

Drawings

Drawings were objected to because all of the reference numbers are removed from Figures 10-12.

Accordingly, Figures 10-12 are amended to overcome the objection.

Rejections under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to insufficient antecedent basis.

Accordingly, the claims have been amended to give proper antecedent basis. Thus, the objection has been overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(a)

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Prior Art.

In so doing, the Examiner alleged that Applicant's Prior Art discloses all recitations in claim 2 including "wherein the second contact plug is substantially located in a center of an area surrounded by **four closest ferroelectric capacitors** out of said plurality of ferroelectric capacitors" referring to Fig. 10.

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However, in Fig. 10, for example, the second contact **plug 60 is not** substantially located in a center of an area surrounded by four closest ferroelectric capacitors. Thus, Applicant's Prior Art does not disclose "wherein the second contact plug is substantially located in a center of an area surrounded by four closest ferroelectric capacitors out of said plurality of ferroelectric capacitors."

Further explanation is made using attached Explanatory Figures. As shown in Explanatory Fig. A (corresponding to Fig. 2), the area enclosed in the bold line corresponds to "an area surrounded by four closest ferroelectric capacitors . . ." in claim 2. The center C_0 of the enclosed area corresponds to "a center of an area . . ." in claim 2. In the embodiment, the contact plug 10 is located at the center C_0 .

On the other hand, in the related art shown in Explanatory Fig. B (corresponding to Fig. 10), the area enclosed in the bold line corresponds to "an area surrounded by four closest ferroelectric capacitors . . ." in claim 2. The center C_1 of the enclosed area corresponds to "a center of an area . . ." in claim 2. However, as shown in Explanatory Figure B, the contact plug 60 does not position at the center C_1 .

Thus, there is clear difference between the present invention as recited in claim 2 and the structure shown in Fig. 10.

Therefore, Applicant's Prior Art does not teach or suggest "wherein the second contact plug is substantially located in a center of an area surrounded by four closest ferroelectric capacitors out of said plurality of ferroelectric capacitors."

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For at least these reasons, claim 2 patentably distinguishes over Applicant's Prior Art.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Applicant's Prior Art.

Claims 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Applicant's Prior Art in view of Summerfelt et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0012125).

Claims 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Applicant's Prior Art in view of Summerfelt et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0012125) and Corvasce et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 6,656,801).

All of claims 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12, directly or indirectly, depend from claim 2. As discussed above, claim 2 patentably distinguishes over Applicant's Prior Art. Sommerfelt et al and Corvasce et al, as described by the Examiner in the Office Action, do not remedy the deficiencies of Applicant's Prior Art.

Therefore, Applicant's Prior Art, Summerfelt et al. and Corvasce et al, taken alone or taken in combination, do not teach or suggest claims 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12.

For at least these reasons, claims 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 should patentably distinguish over Applicant's Prior Art, Summerfelt et al. and Corvasce et al.

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In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sadao Kinashi

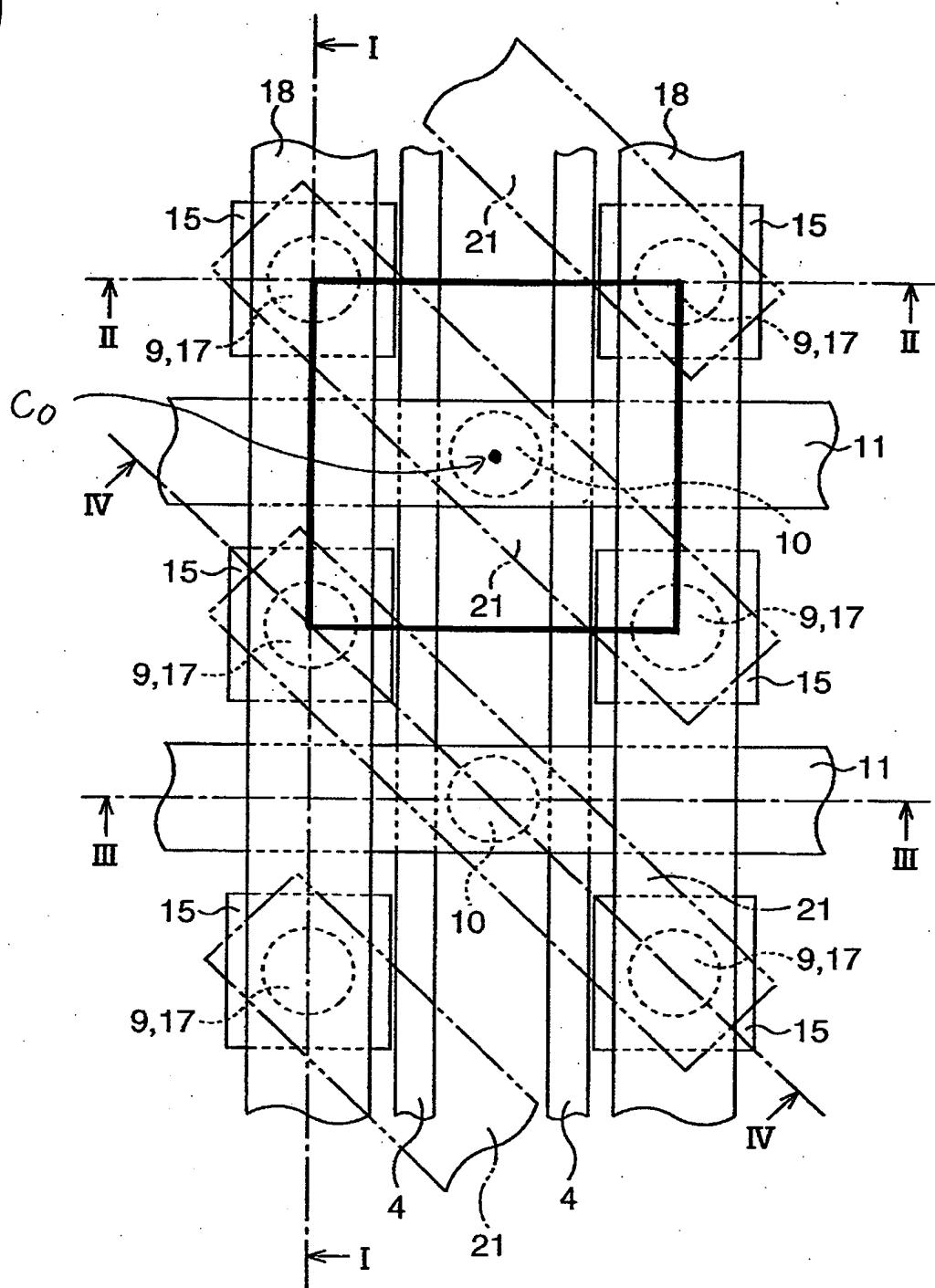
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Enclosure: Replacement Sheets for Figures 10-12
Explanatory Figures A and B

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EXPLANATORY FIG. A
(FIG. 2)



EXPLANATORY FIG. B
(FIG. 10 Prior Art)

